



MICHIGAN CHAPTER

November 28, 2011

To: Senator Casperson and members of the
Senate Transportation Committee

Sierra Club Supports SB 819-820 (Hopgood) – Diesel Idling Mitigation

Dear Senator Casperson and members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

We appreciate you taking time to consider our position on SB 819-820 (Hopgood). The Sierra Club urges you to **SUPPORT** these bills, which would restrict gas and diesel vehicles over 8,500 pounds from idling for longer than 5 minutes per hour (with some exceptions). Diesel engine vehicles use billions of gallons of fuel every year while idling, causing air pollution and wasting resources. This policy change is a relatively simple solution that would have extremely beneficial impacts on public health and the environment in Michigan.

Diesel pollution is carcinogenic and poses three times the cancer risk than the combined risk of all of the 181 hazardous air pollutants regulated by the EPA. Black carbon, or soot, in diesel pollution is a very strong climate change pollutant, approximately 2000 times more potent than the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide. Reducing diesel pollution is a quick way to improve public health and mitigate climate change.

For these reasons, we urge you to **SUPPORT** SB 819-820.

Sincerely,

Mike Berkowitz
Chapter Organizer
Michigan Sierra Club